Lilliput
INTRO / read-this-first

Spencer 2024-11-10 11:38 AM

I've had a lot of questions about what this will be. What structure it will have and what it will actually hope to accomplish. Some people have worries that their time will be wasted here or better spent elsewhere. Some people are concerned at the ways groups of this sort can become their own authoritarian fiefdoms. Others are worried that it will devolve into madness and infighting. Still others have expressed concerns that it could grow big enough to become a mob that is uncontrollable and resorts to dogpiling on social media due to a sense of outrage and a need to just be doing *something*.

Okay. All of the imaginary people I mentioned above are really me. Those are all of *my* concerns. Every group can go astray like this and every person in a group can lose confidence with the leadership or the goal and ditch out. I guess I need to start with why I'm here at all. I'd rather be playing video games with my wife. Or actually doing anything at all with my wife other than this. But we have two daughters. And one of them has her own son and another due in February. I'm here because I worry that the world won't simply set itself to rights without assistance. The world for them will be not worth living in if I leave it to chance.

So then I ask myself: is it arrogant to assume that I'm good enough or influential enough or charismatic enough to actually make any *real* difference? Yes. The answer is yes. To step up like this does take at least some arrogance. It's inevitable and anyone who denies it is probably lying to themselves. I have to assume that I can affect the world before I can summon the wherewithal to commit time and energy to affecting change in it. That assumption is the heart of arrogance.
1/

With that said, I try to keep my arrogance to only that. Just an unearned opinion about my ability to affect change in the world. I suspect that some here also struggle on the same tightrope. Arrogance that could make one insufferable like a gaping chasm on one side. Humility to send one to bury their head in the sand on the other. Busy oneself with daily work in the hopes that there are better, stronger, and more talented people out there somewhere that will make the world the better place it should be.

But I don't believe that there are. Or if there exist such people they're either overwhelmed with the task and need help or they're using their skills for the other side. And let me be clear about what I mean by "the other side" in this case. The other side is an attack on knowledge, science, and human sensibility. It's the idea that all scientists should be dismissed because they're out of touch with everyday people. It's the idea that you don't have to be kind to your neighbours if they are sufficiently different than yourself. It's the idea that the government gets to decide what is real and what is not real. And it is the idea that in order to fight against the other side we need to have our own set of unreal ideas to spread as propaganda. Moving down that path

simply allows us to be subject to a different unreal tyranny.

So what is the mission statement of this organization? What do I plan to do now that I've gathered some people here? These are some thoughts I have.
2/ (edited)

1) I think as a mission statement the name of the group already conjures the image. I see us as the little people fighting back against the giants through organized effort. To not only be certain that the bad ideas are wrong but eventually to find a way to get those ideas into the minds of the people who matter. Ideas are what change the world. Ideas are what will last after we are gone. Ideas are what can let the next generation have some peace and freedom. Maybe that sucks as a mission statement. Maybe I'm not good at mission statements and need help with that. Anyone want to step in?

2) I would like to have individual subgroups that focus on specific areas of unreal or science-denying content. The antivaccine working group will probably the first one to get going. We're going to set some specific goals and also (hopefully) have some people tasked with tracking new arguments and grifters to push back against. I would like climate change to be active very soon as well. As far as existential threats antivax and climate change are the biggest.

3) I think each group is going to have to have a representative or point person of some kind. They probably won't be the leader or most prominent member of that group. But when an adjacent group needs to go to someone to find out some information or when a new person joins and needs to get up to speed on what's currently happening in that group there needs to be someone who will do that. It can't be me. I'm not going to have time to keep track of everything in each group. Also, when a subgroup needs to reach out for additional resources or voices to amplify something that they feel is important that point person will be the one that reaches out. We can't have organization without a structure.
3/

4) With that said, I don't see it as a "hierarchy". At least not in the Jordan Peterson sense. I don't see myself as being above anyone else and I don't see any point person as being above anyone else in a particular working group. There will be conflicts that arise. Two people whose opinions differ about the correct way forward. I think we should, as a group, have guardrails on what sorts of activities we are willing to do. And if anyone wants to move past those guardrails for any reason we need to discuss it first. If we are working as a group then we are all responsible for the worst behaviours of any other single member of the group. This is a principle that can tear groups apart. Moreso when they are working for good. People who are working for bad don't care about these inconsistencies and that is an advantage we need to overcome without emulating.

For initial guardrails I suggest the following: we will not participate in online "swarming" or "dogpiling". We will not attempt to doxx anyone (even the very, very bad people). We will not create or disseminate demonstrably untrue ideas even if those ideas support our biases. We will not resort to intimidation tactics to get what we want. Make no mistake. *How* we do this *matters*.

5) I hope that a fair amount of what we do will be research. I am also starting a podcast

alliance and some of the people from there are also here. There will be a lot of ways those two groups can help each other and maybe at some point they merge into one. Right now I'm living the plot of The Great Escape and digging 3 tunnels so that maybe one will lead us out of here. Research is good. It is knowledge that can be shared. It can lead people who have larger voices to rely on us for assistance when something is needed. It can allow podcasters to make more efficient use of their time and it can allow journalists to produce better content more often. If we do it right.
4/

6) At some point we will need to do something that actually affects the world. Some level of interaction. This is the part that is trickiest. Everyone wants to do their own interaction. No one wants to feel like their content online should be subject to any scrutiny or censorship or judgement for not going hard enough or going too hard at something. That's something we will have to work on. I'm open to suggestions for this and any of my other ideas for how to make everything function and be productive. This is about empowering the people here to get more from their time.

That's all I have for now. As we start, please post in one of the subgroups below (in the "TEXT CHANNELS" section) about which group you would like to focus on. If you're not into focussing on one you can put yourself down for many or just state in the general channel something else you'd like to do. It's okay to do nothing for now if you don't feel qualified for anything. I will track you down and find a place for you, I promise. Everyone who has gotten this far has done so because they have expressed an interest in wanting to help. That help doesn't have to be immediate in order to be useful.
5/5

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Make Lying Wrong Again 2024-11-11 8:55 PM
Excellent

amber4341 2024-11-11 9:30 PM
Sounds good let’s go

Winks (she/her) 2024-11-13 4:43 PM
Love it.

Neil Shirtcliffe 2024-11-19 10:17 AM
I am not doing very well yet. Dischord is new to me. I like the edit feature though. (edited)

Neil Shirtcliffe I am not doing very well yet. Dischord is new to me. I like the edit feature though. (edi...

Spencer 2024-11-19 4:27 PM
I'm going to put together some instructive screenshots for people who are new to discord. Hopefully tonight.

krunchymoses 2024-11-30 11:23 PM
Had a read of this. I'm very relaxed about things - not one to swing my dick around. This seems like a good initiative and I'm gonna take it as it comes and go with the flow!

Spencer 2025-01-10 10:56 AM
@everyone
We're making a few changes around here. Some people have their names in colour and some do not. Having a colour indicates that you (in discord terms) have been assigned a "role". This doesn't indicate any specific level of expectation upon you. It's just what discord calls it. But we will be rearranging a few things.

Some people have come here specifically to work on a particular area of disinformation and they have already been assigned that role colour accordingly. Not everyone is a person I invited and part of that has lead to the conflict of goals we have had this past week. However, to simply remove every name I don't recognize would be arbitrary judgement and I'm not interested in that. So instead everyone is going to be assigned a role and that role will give you access to some (bot not all) of the information available here.

In this way, the Stewanon group can continue their work unimpeded by the antivaccine group. If there ever comes to be the case again where the two interests collide we will cross that bridge when we come to it. If you do not have a role and would like one you can DM me (right click on my name on a PC or click my picture if on a phone) and I can get you one.

It is regrettable that this has come to pass and so quickly. What is perhaps even more regrettable is that I must now keep the offending channel as proof of how this happened. I am being defamed right now and almost every communication that would be used to malign me (and exonerate me of that malignment) is in that one channel. If anyone has any questions, please DM me.

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Ellethejambo 2025-01-10 11:21 AM
Set the channel to private and make it so only you can invite people. This happened with a group I had, people just kept inviting everyone, people I didn't even know, and it led to conflict.

👍 1

Set*

Exported 14 message(s)
Timezone: UTC-7